

(12) INTERNATIONAL APPLICATION PUBLISHED UNDER THE PATENT COOPERATION TREATY (PCT)

(19) World Intellectual Property
Organization
International Bureau



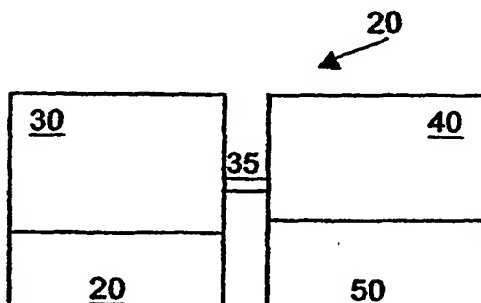
(43) International Publication Date
8 July 2004 (08.07.2004)

PCT

(10) International Publication Number
WO 2004/057068 A1

- (51) International Patent Classification⁷: D01F 4/02, D01D 1/02, C08L 89/00
- (21) International Application Number: PCT/EP2003/014786
- (22) International Filing Date: 23 December 2003 (23.12.2003)
- (25) Filing Language: English
- (26) Publication Language: English
- (30) Priority Data: 0230102.6 23 December 2002 (23.12.2002) GB
- (71) Applicant (for all designated States except US): SPINOX LIMITED [GB/GB]; Units 14-15, Galaxy House, New Greenham Park, Newbury, Berks RG19 6HW (GB).
- (72) Inventors; and
- (75) Inventors/Applicants (for US only): KNIGHT, David, Philip [GB/GB]; Spinox Limited, Units 14-15, Galaxy House, New Greenham Park, Newbury, Berks RG19 6HW (GB). PINNOCK, Larissa [RU/GB]; Spinox Limited, Units 14-15, Galaxy House, New Greenham Park, Newbury, Berks RG19 6HW (GB).
- (54) Agent: HARRISON, Robert, J.; Rouse Patents, Windsor House, Cornwall Road, Harrogate HG1 2PW (GB).
- (81) Designated States (national): AE, AG, AL, AM, AT, AU, AZ, BA, BB, BG, BR, BW, BY, BZ, CA, CH, CN, CO, CR, CU, CZ, DE, DK, DM, DZ, EC, EE, EG, ES, FI, GB, GD, GE, GH, GM, HR, HU, ID, IL, IN, IS, JP, KE, KG, KP, KR, KZ, LC, LK, LR, LS, LT, LU, LV, MA, MD, MG, MK, MN, MW, MX, MZ, NI, NO, NZ, OM, PG, PH, PL, PT, RO, RU, SC, SD, SE, SG, SK, SL, SY, TJ, TM, TN, TR, TT, TZ, UA, UG, US, UZ, VC, VN, YU, ZA, ZM, ZW.
- (84) Designated States (regional): ARIPO patent (BW, GH, GM, KE, LS, MW, MZ, SD, SL, SZ, TZ, UG, ZM, ZW), Eurasian patent (AM, AZ, BY, KG, KZ, MD, RU, TJ, TM), European patent (AT, BE, BG, CH, CY, CZ, DE, DK, EE, ES, FI, FR, GB, GR, HU, IE, IT, LU, MC, NL, PT, RO, SE, SI, SK, TR), OAPI patent (BF, BJ, CF, CG, CI, CM, GA, GN, GQ, GW, ML, MR, NE, SN, TD, TG).
- Published:**
- with international search report
 - before the expiration of the time limit for amending the claims and to be republished in the event of receipt of amendments
- For two-letter codes and other abbreviations, refer to the "Guidance Notes on Codes and Abbreviations" appearing at the beginning of each regular issue of the PCT Gazette.

(54) Title: APPARATUS AND METHOD FOR STORING PROTEINS



(57) Abstract: An apparatus for the storage of a protein (20) comprising a first compartment (30) for storing the protein (20) and a second compartment (40) for storing an alkaline buffer (50), the second compartment (40) being in fluid communication with the first compartment (30) is described. In one preferential embodiment of the invention, the alkaline buffer comprises calcium ions which encourage the gelling of the protein (20). A method for the storage of a protein (20) is also described. The method comprises: a first step of placing the protein in a first storage compartment (30); a second step of exposing the protein (20) to an alkaline buffer (50); and a third step of maintaining the protein (20) in the alkaline atmosphere in the first storage compartment (30).